

BEFORE THE  
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20268

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In the Matter of:

Hacker Valley West Va. 26222  
Post Office State ZIP Code

Docket No: Don't know can't find out  
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Retha Gasto, Petitioner(s)

## PARTICIPANT STATEMENT

1. Petitioner(s) are appealing the Postal Service's Final Determination concerning the Hacker Valley post office. The Final Determination was posted may 22 - 2009 (date)

2. In accordance with applicable law, 39 U.S.C. § 404(b)(5), the Petitioner(s) request the Postal Regulatory Commission to review the Postal Service's determination on the basis of the record before the Postal Service in the making of the determination.

3. Petitioners: Please set out below the reasons why you believe the Postal Service's Final Determination should be reversed and returned to the Postal Service for further consideration. (See pages of the Instructions for an outline of the kinds of reasons the law requires us to consider.) Please be as specific as possible. Please continue on additional paper if you need more space and attach the additional page(s) to this form.

Should be at least one P.O. left in northern part of Webster Co. Also the people need it. Not right take every thing away from the people. — Already down only 1 store and 1 Sc. People had a time holding the Sc. finally, Gov't, helped some. Gotten new Sc. built, after people told they build it themselves. Or that way I heard it.  
Also heard been a building fixed up. At the Valley for the P.O. — So why not let it be there? Be handy place for it. — Times people mail boxes are torn up. By vandals.

That happened to us. — Called postal, was sent  
 sticker put on mail, saying who did be fined.  
 Now need new stick, as that one faded off.

Also when people need or have be away for while can  
 have mail held at P.O. — But if take it away, Can't  
 just to far and unhandy, for lot of the people.

So for God's sake and yours too, please think  
 of the people. — Not just the money. Think how you  
 like be treated? Since the early 50's, Been at least 4 or 5  
 P.O. taken out Northern Webster & edge of Braxton Co.  
 Holly 1st, due to putting Sutton Dam in. — Think  
 Careers pr. in Braxton Co, which joins Webster.

Then where P.O. — Repletz & Cleveland, Now you want  
 take Hackberry, Not right, — Be better cut postage  
 Put parcel post back like used to be, Get shut the  
 other vehicles, that you have to deliver pkgs.

Is better for mail carriers, Have vehicle as they be in  
 side in bad & cold weather. But they could still deliver  
 parcel post, — Guess was always Express & Freight.  
 Still need that too. — "Your participant statement" items  
 listed to go by. — Way I see & understand. All 4 of them  
 not been considered, for the people and P.O. in & for Hacker  
 Valley WVa. — Like postal Dept. already had their mind made  
 up close P.O. Before letting the people know. —

Have heard there are other buildings p.o. could be put in. Also would build one if need.

So for the love and mercy of the people why not, move H.V. P.O. into one of the buildings before end of month. — Not make it any harder on people, By taking it out, making them buy other mail boxes.

Also no p.o. at H.V. Be harder on mail carrier, Go to Rock Cave. get the mail —

Be help, cut postage. Get parcel post back. Where mail carrier, Delivered, pkgs. Did not have U.P.S. and Fed X. I ever remember of. Always had Freight, and Express.

Still need people, more so than Computers also, it cost, to make & keep up Computers — yet when electric off, what can you do?

Think about it, — people still work, Couldn't they? Also people need work, Right?

Be better for the elderly and disabled, their mail delivered to their homes. Than run mail carrier to Rock Cave 1 or 2 trips a day. Far as I remember, also hearing ancestors tell been Post Offices, in and about Northern Webster Co. — Can't help think be sin and shame take last one out.

Am glad mail carriers has vehicles any more instead riding horses. As warmer & drier for them.

We never had electric, till 1948 in this part  
of our State. — Electric, really been appreciated.  
Do hope you leave the Hacker Valley P.O.  
Don't even close it, just move to  
Another building —

And may God Bless you for it.

My hope and prayer for all. And postal  
service better, Not worse, for the people.

A descendant from earlier settlers in ~~the~~  
Northern part of Webster Co. W. Va. Formally  
State of Va. — as well as part of Braxton Co. W. Va. —

Retha Hinkle Casto

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Hacker Valley, W. Va. 26222-8824

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# WEBSTER

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID  
AT WEBSTER SPRINGS, WV  
SUBSCRIPTION RATE IN WV: \$23.50  
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POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to:  
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Circulation Dept.  
P.O. Box 1000  
Webster Springs, WV 26056-1000  
HACKER VALLEY WV 26222-2024

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## Citizens gather to address concerns about suspension of Hacker Valley Post Office

**O**n Monday evening, a special meeting was held in the parking lot of the Senior Citizens building to address concerns about the suspension of the Hacker Valley Post Office effective July 1. Teresa Price, Retail Specialist and Post Office Review Coordinator, and Theresa Mullins, Manager of Post Office Operations, were on hand to represent the postal service, as well as answer questions about the closing and how residents of the Hacker Valley area would receive their mail upon the closing.

The lease on the building that currently houses the Hacker Valley Post Office will run out on July 2, although the last day of business will be July 1. Although the postal service was notified five years ago through registered mail by the owner of the building that the lease would not be renewed, no plans were put into place for preparation of this event. Due to the lack of a building and postmaster for the area, the Hacker Valley Post Office is being suspended.

Mullins explained.

After the next six months, there will be a 60 day comment period in which information will be gathered by Price and Mullins, including a survey that will be sent out to residents. This information will be presented to the Postal Regulatory Committee, who will then decide whether or not the Hacker Valley Post Office will be officially closed. In this decision, all the information will be considered, including the fact that the Hacker Valley Post Office will not be making money during this time.

Although the spokeswoman refused to admit that the Hacker Valley Post Office would be closed permanently, they freely admitted that the Facility Service Office (FSO) had already said there were no fit buildings in the Hacker Valley area for a post office, despite the fact that no inspections have been done to date. Price also informed the public that he had tried to get a trailer moved in to serve as the post office, but the FSO had also denied that request.

put up on the approved routes (approved routes are within a mile of the main route.) For everyone else that doesn't meet the criteria, they must get a post office box in either Diana or Rock Cave, which is in Upshur County.

Several citizens, as well as business owners including Brian Nostrand, questioned how they will be able mail out packages without the post office. The representatives said that as long as you live on the approved mail routes, you can arrange for a pick-up at your house by usps.com. Those that will have a mailbox were informed that you can mail packages from your mailbox; when questioned about how you would pay for a package undetermined weight if you weren't sure of the price, they suggested that you leave

money in your box to pay for your postage. Everyone else will of course be required to travel to the post office, or could switch to a delivery service. For those people, including the elderly who have no means of transportation to and from the post office every day who have concerns about how they will receive their medicine by mail or pay their bills, the representatives had no answers.

According the representatives, this suspension does not mean that the post office is being closed permanently. "The postal service is not picking on Hacker Valley, we just don't happen to have a building in Hacker Valley."

a school building for the post office, but the representatives refused to divulge information about where or to whom these proposals could be made to. The also informed the community that none of the proposals for a new building would be considered until a decision of the fate of the Hacker Valley Post Office had been officially made at the end of the 60 day comment period.

County Commissioner Sam Barger presented the representatives a proclamation from the County Commission in support of the Hacker Valley Post Office although they refused to read it in crowd, or let him read it until after the meeting had been dismissed. The representatives also refused to answer several questions that citizens posed concerning how much money the post office lost compared with other area post offices, or how long it would take to reopen the post office if they decided to keep it.

For those with questions concerning whether you are qualified to have a mailbox on your route or how to get one, residents should contact Charlotte Short at 493-6305; this process MUST be completed by July 1. You may also contact Customer Service at 1-800-ASK-USPS, or write United States Postal Service, Office of the Consumer Advocate, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW RM 10433, Washington DC 20260-2200.



Several of the concerned citizens present at the Hacker Valley Post Office suspension meeting. Cars in the background were parked as far as the eye could see.